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AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes for September 1988

Provisional Data From the National Health Interview Survey

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Introduction

The National Center for Health Statistics has included a special set of supplemental questions on the adult population's knowledge and attitudes about acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). The first AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes Survey was in the field from August through December 1987. Provisional results of that survey were published on a monthly basis in *Advance Data for Vital and Health Statistics* (Nos. 146, 148, 150, 151, and 153). During the first four months of 1988, the NHIS AIDS questionnaire was revised to meet current program needs for information about AIDS awareness. The revised AIDS Knowledge and Awareness Survey entered the field in May 1988. Provisional findings for May and June, the first two months of data collection with the new questionnaire, for July, and for August were published in *Advance Data for Vital and Health Statistics*, Nos. 160, 161, and 163, respectively. This report presents provisional results for September 1988.

The *Advance Data* reports describing the NHIS AIDS data have been restricted to simple descriptive statistics to facilitate their timely release. Thus, these reports do not attempt to explain or interpret differences among population subgroups in AIDS knowledge or to examine relationships among various measures of knowledge, attitudes, and perceived risk. The 1987 and 1988 NHIS AIDS data bases will permit more complex analyses than those presented in this series of *Advance Data* reports, and such analyses are being undertaken by various groups in the Public Health Service.

The AIDS questionnaires were designed to provide estimates of public knowledge and attitudes about AIDS transmission and prevention of AIDS virus infection. The data were needed as input for the planning and development of AIDS educational campaigns and for monitoring major educational efforts, e.g., the series of radio and television public service announcements entitled "America Responds to AIDS" and the brochure "Understanding AIDS," both developed by the Centers for Disease Control.

The 1987 and 1988 AIDS questionnaires were developed by the National Center for Health Statistics and interagency working groups established by the Information, Education and Risk Factor Reduction Subcommittee of the Public Health Service Executive Task Force on AIDS. The working groups included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control; the National Institutes of Health; the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The current AIDS questionnaire includes items on sources of AIDS information; self-assessed level of AIDS knowledge; basic facts about the AIDS virus and how it is transmitted; blood donation experience; awareness of and experience with the blood test for the AIDS virus; perceived effectiveness of selected preventive measures; self-assessed chances of getting the AIDS virus; personal acquaintance with persons with AIDS or the AIDS virus; and willingness to take part in a proposed national seroprevalence survey. A general risk behavior question, similar to that asked by the Red Cross of potential blood donors, is included in the 1988 AIDS questionnaire.

This report presents provisional data for September 1988 for most items included in the AIDS questionnaire. Table 1 displays percent distributions of persons 18 years of age and over by response categories according to age, sex, race, and education. In most cases, the actual questions asked of the respondents are reproduced verbatim in table 1, along with the coded response categories. In a few cases, questions or response categories have been rephrased or

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combined for clearer or more concise presentation of results. Refusals and other nonresponse categories are excluded from the denominator in the calculation of estimates, but responses of "don't know" are included.

This report contains few comparisons with data from the 1987 NHIS AIDS survey, and those comparisons that are included must be interpreted with caution. The wording of some questions was changed slightly, and the context in which the questions are asked was modified by the addition of a number of new questions. Differences observed between 1987 and 1988 results may reflect these questionnaire changes as well as actual changes in AIDS knowledge and attitudes.

Selected findings

The following highlights describe various aspects of AIDS knowledge and attitudes as observed in the September 1988 data fron the NHIS AIDS survey. Based on the measures included in this survey, AIDS knowledge was maintained in September at about the same level as in August 1988. Those differences cited in the text are statistically significant unless otherwise noted (see table II for approximate standard errors of estimates).

Sources of AIDS information—In September 1988, 83 percent of all adults in the United States reported having seen public service announcements about AIDS on television; 43 percent stated that they had heard AIDS public service announcements on the radio. The proportion of persons who reported having seen or heard such announcements was higher for persons 18–49 years of age than for those 50 years and over and was higher for persons with 12 or more years of school than for those with less than 12 years of school. Twenty percent of all adults stated that the announcements they heard on television and the radio were part of the "America Responds to AIDS" series.

Thirty-four percent of U.S. adults reportedly read brochures or pamphlets about AIDS in the month preceeding the September NHIS interview, compared to 42 percent in August. However, 66 percent (67 percent in August) of all adults reported that they had ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS. Of those who reported in September that they had ever read brochures or pamphlets about AIDS, 41 percent said they had received the pamphlets or brochures in the mail without asking, which may reflect some carry-over of awareness of mailed brochures from the Centers' for Disease Control June 1988 mailing of the brochure "Understanding AIDS" to all household in the United States.

Self-assessed knowledge—As of September 1988, 22 percent of adults stated that they knew a lot about AIDS, 43 percent said they knew some, 26 percent felt they knew a little, and 8 percent claimed they knew nothing about AIDS.

General knowledge—General knowledge about AIDS and the AIDS virus showed little change betwen August and September 1988. The great majority of adults thought it was definitely true that AIDS leads to death (86 percent), and that there is no cure for AIDS at present (86 percent), and that the AIDS virus can be transmitted by means of sexual intercourse (83 percent) and from mother to infant (80 percent). Three-fourths of the adults thought it was definitely false that an AIDS vaccine is available to the public.

As shown in table 1, there were large differences by education in the proportions of adults responding correctly to these general knowledge questions, with the more highly educated individuals the more likely to provide correct answers. Adults 30–49 years of age responded more accurately, on the average, than individuals who were either younger or older, and white adults more often answered correctly than did black adults. There was no consistent difference by gender in general AIDS information level.

Transmission of the AIDS virus—Although the 1987 AIDS survey revealed widespread misinformation about the risk of AIDS virus transmission through casual contact, accurate knowledge in this area increased continuously between August and December 1987. This aspect of AIDS knowledge also improved between May and August 1988, but did not show any change between August and September 1988.

Blood donation and testing—Based on September 1988 data, 42 percent of all adults in the United States have donated blood at some time in their lives, and 14 percent have donated blood since 1985 when automatic testing of blood donations for the AIDS virus began. Seven percent of adults reported having donated blood in the 12 months before the interview. Younger adults were most likely to have donated blood recently. The proportion of adults who had donated blood since 1985 increased with education, from 5 percent of persons with less than 12 years of school to 20 percent of those with more than 12 years.

Seventy-seven percent of adults have heard of the blood test for the AIDS virus infection. Eighty-three percent of individuals 18–49 years of age had heard of the test, compared to 64 percent of those 50 years and over. Awareness of the AIDS blood test was greater among white than black adults (79 compared to 69 percent) and increased with education, from 57 percent of those with less than 12 years of school to 78 and 88 percent, respectively, of those with 12 years and more than 12 years of school. Two-thirds (68 percent) of adults correctly believe that blood donations are now routinely tested for the AIDS virus.

Only 4 percent of all U.S. adults reported having received counseling about the AIDS virus test. Altogether, 17 percent of adults have had their blood tested for the AIDS virus infection. This figure includes 8 percent who reported having had the test, about the same as August 1988, and 9 percent who denied or were unaware of having had the test but reported having donated blood since 1985, which had been subjected to routine testing for the AIDS virus. Persons age 18–29 years and 30–49 years were more than twice as likely as those age 50 years and over to have had the AIDS blood test (26 and 21 percent, respectively, compared to 7 percent), and men were more likely than women to have done so (21 percent versus 14 percent). The proportion of adults whose blood had been tested increased with education, from 8 percent of those with less than 12

years of school to 24 percent of those with more than 12 years.

Seventy-four percent of all persons who reported having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus infection one or more times stated that at least one of the tests was done as routine part of blood donation, 14 percent (3 percent of the total adult population) reported having taken a test voluntarily, and 13 percent took a test as part of some other activity that included routine blood testing (e.g., military induction, immigration).

Just over half (55 percent) of the individuals who reported having had their blood tested for the AIDS virus infection reported having received the results of the test. This proportion was greater for persons with less than 12 years of school than for those with 12 or more years (75 compared to 52 percent).

Seven percent of all adults reported plans to have their blood tested for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months. This proportion decreased with age, from 11 percent of persons 18–29 years to 3 percent of those age 50 years and over.

Six percent of all adults in the United States received blood transfusions between 1977 when the AIDS virus is believed to have entered the United States and 1985 when routine testing of blood donations for the AIDS virus infection was initiated. As of September 1988, 43 percent of adults stated that the blood supply is now safe for transfusions; 30 percent did not believe the blood supply is safe; and 27 percent were uncertain. The proportion of adults trusting the safety of the blood supply increased with education, was higher for men than women, was higher for white than black individuals, and was higher for persons 18–49 years of age than for those 50 years and over.

Preventive measures—Thirty percent of adults thought that condoms were very effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus, and 53 percent thought that this method is somewhat effective. Eighty-three percent realized that having a monogamous relationship with a person who does not have AIDS is a very effective way to prevent getting the virus. Over half of all adults (56 percent) realized that the diaphram, spermicidal jellies and creams, and vasectomy are not effective in preventing AIDS virus transmission, with most of the remainder uncertain about the effectiveness of these methods.

Risk of getting the AIDS virus—Two percent of all adults stated that they belonged to one or more of the behavior groups associated with increased risk of AIDS virus transmission, i.e., hemopheliacs, intravenous drug users, homosexuals, etc. This proportion decreased with age, from 4 percent of adults 18–29 to 1 percent of adults age 50 years or over.

As of September 1988, 82 percent of U.S. adults believed there is no chance that they have the AIDS virus. Thirteen percent reported a low chance, 2 percent a medium chance, and less than 1 percent a high chance. Americans assess their chances of getting the AIDS virus as minimal also. Seventy-five percent reported no chance of getting the virus; 18 percent preceived themselves at low risk, 2 percent at medium risk, and less than 1 percent at high risk. Adults age 50 years and over were least likely to perceive some risk of getting the AIDS virus, and women were slightly less likely than men to feel at risk.

About two-thirds (63 percent) of adults have talked to friends or relatives about AIDS, a proportion that varied with eductation, from 43 percent of those persons with less than 12 years of school to 76 percent of those with more than 12 years.

One-tenth (11 percent) of the adults in the United States reported knowing or having known someone with AIDS or the AIDS virus. This proportion was higher for adults 18–49 years than for those age 50 years and over and more than twice as high for persons with more than 12 years of school as for those with less education. Most of the individuals who had known someone with AIDS or the AIDS virus stated that more than 6 months had passed since they had seen that person.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1988

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1. In the past month, have you—											
1a. Seen any public service announcements about AIDS on television?											
Yes	83	84	86	80	81	84	83	84	74	87	84
No	16	15	14	17	17	14	15	14	23	12	15
Don't know	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	2
1b. Heard any public service announcements about AIDS on the radio?											
Yes	43	51	48	33	48	39	43	50	36	44	47
No	52	46	47	63	48	56	53	46	59	52	48
Don't know	4	3	5	5	4	5	5	4	5	4	5
2. Were any of those public service announcements called "America Responds to AIDS"?											
Yes	20	27	22	13	19	21	19	28	19	22	19
No	11	14	10	10	11	11	11	14	11	10	12
Don't know	54	48	55	59	54	55	56	45	47	57	56
Neither heard nor saw any public service announcements	14	12	13	18	16	13	14	13	23	11	13
3. In the past month, have you read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	34	36	38	30	32	36	34	37	23	34	41
No	65	64	62	69	67	63	65	62	77	65	58
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
4. Have you ever read any brochures or pamphlets about AIDS?											
Yes	66	69	73	57	62	70	67	62	46	66	78
No	33	31	27	43	37	30	33	36	53	34	22
Don't know	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
5. Where did you get the pamphlets or brochures?[1,2]											
Clinic, other than work clinic	2	4	2	1	2	3	2	6	4	2	2
Doctor's office (HMO)	11	16	10	10	10	13	11	13	14	13	10
Drug store	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Public health department	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	6	3	1	2
Received in mail without asking	41	33	41	47	38	43	42	32	44	42	39
Red Cross/Red Cross blood donation	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Other blood donation	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	–	1	1	1
School	8	15	7	2	7	8	8	7	4	7	10
Sent/phoned for/requested it	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	1
Federal/State/local government	28	21	29	33	30	27	29	20	24	26	31
Work, other than clinic or nurse	11	10	15	8	14	9	11	16	4	11	14
Work, nurse or clinic	4	5	4	3	2	5	4	5	3	4	4
Other	12	14	12	9	14	10	11	17	10	11	13
Don't know	1	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
15. Have you ever discussed AIDS with any of your children aged 10-17?[3]											
Yes	61	33	64	55	51	70	63	53	45	61	70
No	39	67	36	44	49	30	37	47	55	39	30
Don't know	0	–	–	1	0	–	–	–	0	–	–
16. Have any or all of your children aged 10-17 had instruction at school about AIDS?[3]											
Yes	55	46	55	58	54	56	54	59	51	53	61
No	16	30	16	12	11	20	17	12	16	18	14
Don't know	29	24	29	30	35	24	29	28	32	29	26
21. How much would you say you know about AIDS?											
A lot	22	19	29	17	21	24	23	19	10	18	33
Some	43	51	46	34	42	44	45	37	28	48	47
A little	26	26	22	32	28	25	25	30	37	28	18
None	8	4	4	16	9	8	7	13	24	6	1
Don't know	0	–	–	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	–
22. To the best of your knowledge, is there a difference between having the AIDS virus and having the disease AIDS?											
Yes	65	65	72	57	65	66	67	57	40	65	80
No	15	20	15	11	16	15	14	19	17	17	12
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don't know	19	14	12	32	19	20	18	24	43	18	8
23a. AIDS can reduce the body's natural protection against disease.											
Definitely true	75	77	83	64	76	74	77	63	51	76	87
Probably true	11	12	8	14	11	11	11	13	15	13	7
Probably false	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	2	1
Definitely false	3	4	2	4	3	3	3	5	5	3	2
Don't know	9	5	6	17	9	10	8	16	26	6	3

See footnotes at end of table.

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AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
23b. AIDS is especially common in older people.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0
Probably true	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	4	2	1	1
Probably false	19	21	16	20	20	18	19	14	19	19	18
Definitely false	72	71	77	66	70	73	73	67	60	74	77
Don't know	8	6	5	12	8	8	7	13	18	6	4
23c. AIDS can damage the brain.											
Definitely true	27	22	29	29	27	27	26	33	26	27	27
Probably true	29	30	28	31	29	30	30	30	26	28	31
Probably false	9	11	10	6	10	8	9	7	5	8	12
Definitely false	8	10	10	3	7	8	8	5	5	9	8
Don't know	27	27	23	31	26	26	27	25	36	26	21
23d. AIDS usually leads to heart disease.											
Definitely true	8	5	8	9	8	8	7	12	10	6	7
Probably true	21	21	20	22	20	22	21	24	21	21	21
Probably false	18	20	21	14	20	17	19	13	10	16	28
Definitely false	16	20	19	10	17	15	17	10	10	17	20
Don't know	36	32	32	45	34	38	36	41	49	38	27
23e. AIDS is an infectious disease caused by a virus.											
Definitely true	62	66	71	49	63	61	62	61	46	62	71
Probably true	19	20	16	22	19	20	19	19	20	20	18
Probably false	2	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	2
Definitely false	4	3	4	5	4	4	4	5	5	4	3
Don't know	12	8	7	22	12	13	12	14	27	10	7
23f. Teenagers cannot get AIDS.											
Definitely true	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1
Probably true	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Probably false	3	2	2	6	4	3	3	5	6	3	2
Definitely false	93	96	96	87	92	93	94	89	83	94	97
Don't know	3	1	1	6	3	3	2	4	8	2	1
23g. AIDS leads to death.											
Definitely true	86	87	88	83	86	87	86	89	84	89	85
Probably true	10	10	8	11	10	9	10	7	9	8	12
Probably false	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Don't know	2	1	1	5	3	2	2	3	6	2	1
23h. A person can be infected with the AIDS virus and not have the disease AIDS.											
Definitely true	58	59	68	47	57	59	59	52	40	59	68
Probably true	20	21	16	22	20	19	20	18	21	20	19
Probably false	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	3
Definitely false	4	6	4	3	4	4	4	6	5	5	4
Don't know	14	10	9	24	15	14	14	18	31	13	7
23i. Looking at a person is enough to tell if he or she has the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	3	2	1
Probably true	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	2	6	4	2
Probably false	16	15	14	19	16	16	16	16	19	17	13
Definitely false	69	76	76	57	69	69	70	67	51	70	79
Don't know	10	5	5	18	10	9	8	13	22	8	5
23j. Any person with the AIDS virus can pass it on to someone else during sexual intercourse.											
Definitely true	83	86	85	76	80	85	83	83	77	84	84
Probably true	12	10	11	14	14	10	12	10	13	11	11
Probably false	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Definitely false	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
Don't know	4	2	3	7	5	4	4	5	9	3	2
23k. A person who has the AIDS virus can look and feel healthy and well.											
Definitely true	48	54	57	35	49	48	49	46	29	47	61
Probably true	29	29	26	32	29	28	29	25	30	30	27
Probably false	6	5	5	9	5	7	6	5	9	7	4
Definitely false	5	5	5	6	5	6	5	8	6	7	3
Don't know	12	8	8	19	12	12	10	16	26	10	6
23l. A pregnant woman who has the AIDS virus can give the AIDS virus to her baby.											
Definitely true	80	84	83	73	77	83	80	81	73	81	82
Probably true	15	13	13	18	17	13	15	13	16	14	14
Probably false	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Definitely false	0	1	–	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Don't know	5	2	4	8	6	4	5	6	11	4	3

See footnotes at end of table.

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[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
23m. There is a vaccine available to the public that protects a person from getting the AIDS virus.											
Definitely true	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	1
Probably true	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	2	1
Probably false	9	11	8	10	10	8	9	12	9	10	8
Definitely false	75	76	82	66	75	75	78	61	57	77	84
Don't know	12	9	8	20	11	13	11	20	27	10	6
23n. There is no cure for AIDS at present.											
Definitely true	86	87	89	82	86	86	88	81	78	87	90
Probably true	7	6	6	8	7	7	7	5	9	6	5
Probably false	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Definitely false	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know	4	3	3	7	4	4	3	9	10	3	2
24. How likely do you think it is that a person will get AIDS or the AIDS virus infection from—											
24a. Living near a hospital or home for AIDS patients?											
Very likely	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	2	1
Somewhat likely	4	5	3	3	5	3	4	5	4	5	3
Somewhat unlikely	7	7	5	7	7	6	6	9	7	7	6
Very unlikely	40	42	40	39	43	37	41	38	35	41	42
Definitely not possible	40	39	44	36	36	44	42	32	30	39	46
Don't know	8	4	6	13	8	8	7	12	20	6	3
24b. Working near someone with the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	4	6	2	1
Somewhat likely	11	12	11	10	11	11	10	14	12	12	10
Somewhat unlikely	12	14	11	13	12	12	12	13	11	13	12
Very unlikely	39	42	41	36	41	38	40	36	33	38	44
Definitely not possible	27	26	29	25	26	29	28	22	20	26	31
Don't know	7	3	5	13	7	8	7	10	18	6	2
24c. Eating in a restaurant where the cook has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	7	6	7	9	8	7	7	9	10	8	5
Somewhat likely	20	22	19	18	21	18	19	24	19	20	19
Somewhat unlikely	15	15	15	14	14	15	15	11	12	15	15
Very unlikely	29	31	30	27	30	28	30	23	23	28	33
Definitely not possible	17	19	19	12	14	19	17	16	12	16	20
Don't know	13	8	9	21	12	13	12	16	23	13	7
24d. Kissing—with exchange of saliva—a person who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	25	19	25	29	25	26	24	28	30	26	22
Somewhat likely	29	33	26	29	30	28	29	28	26	29	30
Somewhat unlikely	13	15	15	10	13	13	14	11	8	12	17
Very unlikely	15	17	17	11	16	14	16	11	10	14	19
Definitely not possible	7	9	8	5	6	8	7	8	5	9	7
Don't know	11	7	9	16	10	12	10	13	21	10	6
24e. Shaking hands, touching, or kissing on the cheek someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	3	1
Somewhat likely	7	7	6	7	8	5	6	11	8	7	5
Somewhat unlikely	13	13	13	13	14	12	13	13	11	15	12
Very unlikely	39	40	38	39	41	37	39	36	35	37	43
Definitely not possible	32	34	37	26	28	36	34	26	24	32	38
Don't know	7	3	5	12	7	7	6	10	18	6	2
24f. Sharing plates, forks, or glasses with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	10	8	10	11	8	12	9	13	12	12	6
Somewhat likely	20	19	21	21	21	20	20	21	21	22	18
Somewhat unlikely	13	13	13	12	14	12	14	11	9	13	15
Very unlikely	28	31	29	25	30	26	29	26	24	26	34
Definitely not possible	17	21	19	12	15	19	17	17	12	17	20
Don't know	11	8	8	18	11	11	11	12	22	10	7
24g. Using public toilets?											
Very likely	6	5	6	7	5	6	5	8	11	6	2
Somewhat likely	12	12	11	12	11	12	11	15	16	12	9
Somewhat unlikely	12	13	12	11	13	11	12	11	9	13	12
Very unlikely	35	34	37	33	37	33	36	30	25	35	41
Definitely not possible	24	27	26	19	22	25	25	20	15	22	29
Don't know	12	10	8	18	11	13	11	16	24	11	6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age: 18–29 years	Age: 30–49 years	Age: 50 years and over	Sex: Male	Sex: Female	Race: White	Race: Black	Education: Less than 12 years	Education: 12 years	Education: More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
24h. Sharing needles for drug use with someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	94	98	96	90	94	94	96	92	86	96	97
Somewhat likely	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	5	2	1
Somewhat unlikely	0	0	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Very unlikely	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Definitely not possible	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Don't know	2	1	1	5	2	3	2	4	8	1	0
24i. Being coughed or sneezed on by someone who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	8	5	7	11	7	9	8	11	14	9	5
Somewhat likely	21	21	19	22	21	20	20	24	20	23	18
Somewhat unlikely	17	20	18	17	17	17	18	14	14	17	19
Very unlikely	26	30	32	22	30	27	29	24	20	26	36
Definitely not possible	14	16	16	10	12	15	14	12	9	14	16
Don't know	12	8	10	19	12	13	12	14	24	11	7
24j. Attending school with a child who has the AIDS virus?											
Very likely	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	4	4	2	1
Somewhat likely	6	6	6	7	6	6	6	9	7	7	5
Somewhat unlikely	11	12	11	12	12	11	11	12	9	13	11
Very unlikely	41	42	41	40	43	39	41	39	36	40	44
Definitely not possible	31	35	34	25	26	34	32	25	22	31	37
Don't know	9	4	6	15	9	9	8	10	21	7	4
24k. Mosquitoes or other insects?											
Very likely	8	10	8	6	10	7	7	13	14	8	5
Somewhat likely	16	20	15	15	17	16	16	18	18	18	13
Somewhat unlikely	9	10	8	8	8	9	9	9	6	9	9
Very unlikely	24	23	26	22	25	24	26	19	19	24	29
Definitely not possible	19	18	22	18	18	21	20	15	12	19	24
Don't know	23	19	19	30	22	24	22	26	32	21	19
25. Have you ever donated blood?											
Yes	42	34	43	45	53	31	43	34	33	38	50
No	58	65	57	55	47	68	57	66	67	61	50
Don't know	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
26a. Have you donated blood since March 1985?											
Yes	14	21	17	6	18	11	15	9	5	13	20
No	85	78	83	94	82	89	85	90	95	86	79
Don't know	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
26b. Have you donated blood in the past 12 months?											
Yes	7	9	8	3	8	5	7	2	2	6	10
No	93	90	91	97	91	94	92	98	98	93	90
Don't know	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
27. Have you ever heard of a blood test that can detect the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	77	83	85	64	77	77	79	69	57	78	86
No	19	15	13	29	18	19	17	26	36	18	9
Don't know	4	2	3	8	4	4	4	4	7	4	3
28. To the best of your knowledge, are blood donations routinely tested now for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	68	73	76	53	68	67	70	56	47	68	79
No	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	4
Don't know	6	6	5	8	6	6	6	9	8	6	5
Never heard of test[4]	23	17	15	36	23	23	21	31	43	22	12
29a. Have you ever received counseling or had a talk with a health professional about taking the AIDS virus test?											
Yes	4	5	5	1	4	4	4	4	2	3	5
No	73	78	80	63	74	73	75	64	55	74	83
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Never heard of test[4]	23	17	15	36	23	23	21	31	43	22	12
29b. Was the discussion—[1,5]											
With a private doctor?	49	46	52	43	39	58	51	38	53	38	55
At a family-planning clinic?	8	13	5	9	8	8	7	20	11	10	6
On an AIDS hotline?	4	3	3	9	6	2	3	5	–	1	6
At a prenatal clinic?	4	7	1	9	2	6	2	17	7	2	5
At an STD or sexually transmitted disease clinic?	4	3	3	9	5	2	1	15	1	5	3
At an AIDS/HIV counseling and testing site?	7	1	10	14	9	5	6	17	15	–	10
With some other health professional?	39	40	35	62	46	33	37	50	35	44	37
With some other counselor?	11	11	12	4	12	10	11	11	11	14	8
30. During that discussion, did you receive information about how to avoid getting or passing on the AIDS virus?[5]											
Yes	63	74	55	57	66	59	57	99	66	66	59
No	37	26	45	43	34	41	43	1	34	34	41
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
31. Have you ever been advised by a health professional not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
No	76	82	84	64	77	76	78	68	57	77	87
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Never heard of test[4]	23	17	15	36	23	23	21	31	43	22	12
32. Have you ever been advised by friends or relatives not to have the blood test for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
No	76	82	84	64	76	76	78	68	57	77	87
Don't know	0	–	0	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0
Never heard of test[4]	23	17	15	36	23	23	21	31	43	22	12
33. Have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?											
Yes[6]	17	26	21	7	21	14	18	14	8	16	24
No	59	58	64	56	56	62	60	55	48	62	63
Don't know	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2
Never heard of test[4]	22	15	14	35	21	22	20	29	42	21	11
35a. How many times have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?[7]											
Once	5	7	5	2	5	4	5	5	4	5	5
Twice	1	2	2	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2
3–5 times	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	2
6–12 times	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 12 times	0	0	0	–	0	0	0	–	0	0	0
Don't know[8]	10	14	12	4	12	8	10	8	3	9	14
Never heard of or never took test[5]	83	74	80	93	79	86	82	86	92	84	76
35b. How many times in the past 12 months have you had your blood tested for the AIDS virus infection?[7]											
None in the past 12 months	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	3
Once	4	7	5	2	5	4	5	4	3	4	6
More than once	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	2
Don't know[8]	10	14	12	4	12	8	10	8	3	9	14
Never heard of or never took test[5]	83	74	80	93	79	86	82	86	92	84	76
36. Was the test/were any of the tests, including those you had before the past 12 months—[1]											
Part of a blood donation?[8,7]	74	74	76	72	75	73	76	59	52	74	79
Part of a blood transfusion?[9]	1	1	1	4	1	1	2	0	2	2	1
Voluntarily sought?[9]	14	15	15	10	12	17	13	24	23	11	14
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?[9]	13	16	11	13	15	11	13	20	22	15	11
38. Did you get the results of your test/any of your tests?[9]											
Yes	55	58	55	47	54	56	54	56	75	51	52
No	44	40	45	51	46	42	44	44	25	47	47
Don't know	1	2	0	2	0	2	1	–	–	2	1
41. Do you expect to have a blood test for the AIDS virus infection in the next 12 months?											
Yes	7	11	8	3	8	6	7	8	5	7	8
No	66	67	73	58	65	67	68	54	48	67	76
Don't know	4	5	4	3	5	4	4	6	4	3	5
Never heard of test[4]	23	17	15	36	23	23	21	31	43	22	12
42. Will the test be—[1,10]											
Part of a blood donation?	43	41	45	44	45	41	48	18	29	38	53
Voluntarily sought?	51	58	48	39	44	58	46	73	60	56	41
Part of some other activity that requires a blood sample?	16	19	11	25	20	12	16	19	16	19	14
44a. Did you have a blood tranfusion at any time between 1977 and 1985?											
Yes	6	4	5	8	5	7	6	7	8	5	6
No	93	95	94	90	93	92	93	92	91	93	93
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
44b. Do you think the present supply of blood is safe for tranfusions?											
Yes	43	49	45	37	46	41	45	34	30	44	50
No	30	31	30	29	28	32	29	36	35	31	26
Other	0	–	0	–	0	–	0	–	–	–	0
Don't know	27	20	25	34	26	27	26	31	35	25	24
45. Here are some methods people use to prevent getting the AIDS virus through sexual activity. How effective is—											
45a. Using a diaphragm?											
Very effective	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	5	3	3	2
Somewhat effective	11	13	9	11	12	10	11	11	9	12	11
Not at all effective	58	61	67	46	56	60	60	49	40	57	69
Don't know how effective	21	17	16	29	20	21	20	25	32	21	15
Don't know method	8	6	6	11	9	6	6	11	16	7	4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1988—Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
45b. Using a condom?											
Very effective	30	35	33	22	31	29	30	29	25	28	36
Somewhat effective	53	53	55	52	53	53	55	46	41	57	58
Not at all effective	5	5	5	5	4	6	4	9	8	5	4
Don't know how effective	9	5	5	16	9	9	6	13	19	8	4
Don't know method	3	1	2	5	3	2	2	3	6	2	1
45c. Using a spermicidal jelly, foam, or cream?											
Very effective	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
Somewhat effective	14	15	15	11	15	12	14	13	8	13	17
Not at all effective	56	60	63	44	52	59	57	51	43	55	64
Don't know how effective	22	18	17	32	23	22	22	24	31	24	15
Don't know method	7	5	4	12	8	6	6	10	16	5	3
45d. Having a vasectomy?											
Very effective	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
Somewhat effective	2	4	2	2	3	2	2	4	2	3	2
Not at all effective	71	71	80	61	70	72	74	59	60	71	83
Don't know how effective	17	17	11	24	17	17	17	22	27	18	10
Don't know method	8	7	5	12	9	7	7	14	19	6	4
45e. Two people who do not have the AIDS virus having sex only with each other?											
Very effective	83	83	87	79	83	83	85	72	70	84	91
Somewhat effective	8	9	7	8	7	8	7	11	11	8	6
Not at all effective	2	4	2	1	2	2	2	4	4	3	1
Don't know how effective	5	3	3	8	5	4	4	8	11	4	2
Don't know method	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	4	5	1	1
46. What are your chances of having the AIDS virus?											
High	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Medium	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	2
Low	13	17	15	8	15	11	13	14	7	13	17
None	82	78	80	87	79	84	83	78	86	83	79
Don't know	3	2	2	4	3	3	2	7	7	3	1
47. What are your chances of getting the AIDS virus?											
High	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0
Medium	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2
Low	18	24	22	10	20	16	16	17	10	17	24
None	75	69	72	83	72	77	76	70	79	76	71
Don't know	4	3	3	5	4	4	3	7	8	3	2
High chance of already having AIDS virus	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
49. Do you say your chance of getting AIDS is high or medium because you—[11]											
Have had a blood transfusion?	8	7	4	15	10	5	9	6	8	9	6
Have had sexual contact with someone who might have the virus?	18	29	19	2	22	13	21	8	23	19	14
Some other reason?	70	69	67	78	68	73	69	66	76	66	72
52. Have you ever discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
Yes	63	68	72	49	58	67	64	60	43	61	76
No	37	32	28	51	41	33	36	40	56	39	24
Don't know	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
53. When was the last time you discussed AIDS with a friend or relative?											
0–3 days ago	7	7	9	5	7	8	7	10	5	8	9
4–7 days ago	8	9	9	6	7	9	8	8	6	7	10
8–14 days ago	6	7	7	5	6	6	6	7	5	6	7
15–31 days ago	14	16	17	10	13	16	15	14	10	15	16
More than 31 days ago	22	25	25	15	20	24	22	16	13	20	26
Don't know	5	4	5	6	5	5	6	4	4	5	6
Never discussed[12]	37	32	28	51	42	33	37	40	57	39	24
54. Have you ever personally known anyone with AIDS or the AIDS virus?											
Yes	11	12	14	8	11	12	11	16	6	10	18
No	87	87	84	91	88	87	88	81	92	89	82
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	1
55. How long has it been since you saw this person?											
Within past 2 weeks	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	2
2 weeks–less than 1 month	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
1 month–less than 3 months	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
3 months–less than 6 months	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
6 months or more	8	8	9	6	7	8	7	9	4	6	11
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–	0	0
Never knew anyone with AIDS[13]	89	88	86	92	89	88	89	84	94	90	84

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Provisional estimates of the percent of persons 18 years of age and over with selected AIDS knowledge and attitudes from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1988--Con.

[Data are based on household interviews of the civilian noninstitutionalized population. The survey design, general qualifications, and information on the reliability of the estimates are given in technical notes]

AIDS knowledge or attitude	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18–29 years	30–49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
	Percent distribution[1]										
56. How well do you know this person?											
Very well	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	2
Fairly well	3	2	4	2	3	3	3	4	2	3	4
Not very well	4	5	5	3	4	5	4	5	1	4	6
Don't really know personally	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	3
Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	2
Don't know how well	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Never knew anyone with AIDS[13]	89	88	86	92	89	88	89	84	94	90	84
57. Is any of these statements true for you?											
a. You have hemophilia and have received clotting factor concentrates since 1977.											
b. You are a native of Haiti or Central or East Africa who has entered the United States since 1977.											
c. You are a man who has had sex with another man at some time since 1977, even 1 time.											
d. You have taken illegal drugs by needle at any time since 1977.											
e. Since 1977, you are or have been the sex partner of any person who would answer yes to any of the items above (57 a-d).											
f. You have had sex for money or drugs at any time since 1977.											
Yes to at least 1 statement	2	4	3	1	3	2	2	4	2	2	3
No to all statements	97	96	97	99	96	98	98	96	98	98	97
Refused	0	–	–	0	–	0	–	0	0	–	–
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–	1	0	0
58. The U.S. Public Health Service has said that AIDS is one of the major health problems in the country but exactly how many people it affects is not known. The Surgeon General has proposed that a study be conducted and blood samples be taken to help find out how widespread the problem is. If you were selected in this national sample of people to have their blood tested with assurances of privacy of test results, would you have the test?											
Yes	71	76	73	66	74	69	72	68	64	72	75
No	21	19	20	25	21	22	21	24	27	21	19
Other	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
Don't know	6	4	6	6	5	6	5	7	7	6	5
59. Why wouldn't you take part in the test?[14]											
Don't want to know if I have AIDS	6	8	8	4	6	6	5	12	6	7	6
Don't want any counseling about AIDS	1	1	3	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	2
Fear I'll get AIDS	7	7	8	6	9	6	8	11	9	7	6
Don't like to give blood	16	20	19	11	15	16	15	24	12	18	15
Don't trust Government programs	6	5	8	5	9	5	6	7	4	6	9
It is a waste of money	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	1	5	3	2
Don't believe AIDS can really be cured anyway	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	1
Other	52	49	44	60	51	52	54	41	49	48	58
Don't know	9	9	9	9	8	10	8	10	14	8	5
61. When Federal public health officials give information about AIDS, do you believe what they say or are you doubtful about the information they give?											
Believe	63	69	66	56	62	64	64	60	53	62	70
Doubtful	30	27	30	34	32	29	30	30	33	33	26
Don't know	6	4	5	10	6	7	6	10	14	5	4
62. When they [public health officials] give advice about how to help keep from getting AIDS, do you believe their advice or are you doubtful about what they say?											
Believe	77	80	80	72	78	77	78	76	66	77	84
Doubtful	18	17	16	19	17	18	18	17	22	19	13
Don't know	5	3	3	9	5	5	5	7	12	4	3

[1] Multiple responses may sum to more than 100.
[2] Based on persons answering yes to question 4 (includes yes to question 3).
[3] Based on persons answering yes to question 11, "Do you have any children aged 10 through 17?" Question 12 was "How many do you have?"
[4] Persons answering no or don't know to question 27.
[5] Based on persons answering yes to question 29a.
[6] Includes persons answering yes to question 29a and no or don't know to questions 27 and 33.
[7] Based on yes answers to question 33. See footnote 6.
[8] Persons answering no or don't know to questions 29a, 27, and 33.
[9] Based on persons answering yes to question 33; excludes persons answering yes to question 29a.
[10] Based on persons answering yes to question 41.
[11] Based on persons answering high or medium to question 48.
[12] Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 52.
[13] Based on persons answering no or don't know to question 54.
[14] Based on persons not answering yes to question 58.

Technical notes

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuous, cross-sectional household interview survey. Each week, a probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population is interviewed by personnel of the U.S. Bureau of the Census to obtain information on the health and other characteristics of each member of the household. Supplemental information is collected for all or a sample of household members. The 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes was asked of a single randomly chosen adult 18 years of age or over in each family. The estimates in this report are based on completed interviews with 4,121 persons, or about 89 percent of eligible respondents.

Table I contains the estimated population size of each of the demographic subgroups included in table 1 to allow readers to derive provisional estimates of the number of people in the United States with a given characteristic, for example, the number of men who have had their blood tested for the AIDS virus. The population figures in table I are based on first-quarter 1987 data from the NHIS; they are not official population estimates. Table II shows approximate standard errors of estimates presented in table 1. Both the estimates in table 1 and the standard errors in table II are provisional. They may differ slightly from estimates made using the final data file because they were calculated using a simplified weighting procedure that does not adjust for all the factors used in weighting the final data file. A final data file covering the entire data collection period for 1988 will be available in 1989.

Table I. Sample size for the 1988 National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes and estimated adult population 18 years of age and over, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1988

Characteristics	Sample size	Estimated population in thousands
All adults	4,121	174,528
Age		
18-29 years	974	47,725
30-49 years	1,626	86,109
50 years and over	1,521	80,696
Sex		
Male	1,728	82,703
Female	2,396	91,825
Race		
White	3,292	151,003
Black	666	19,107
Education		
Less than 12 years	930	41,503
12 years	1,559	68,475
More than 12 years	1,596	62,383

Table II. Standard errors, expressed in percentage points, of estimated percents from the National Health Interview Survey of AIDS Knowledge and Attitudes, by selected characteristics: United States, September 1988

Estimated percent	Total	Age			Sex		Race		Education		
		18-29 years	30-49 years	50 years and over	Male	Female	White	Black	Less than 12 years	12 years	More than 12 years
5 or 95	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7
10 or 90	0.6	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.0
15 or 85	0.7	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.8	1.5	1.2	1.2
20 or 80	0.8	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	0.9	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.3
25 or 75	0.9	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.4
30 or 70	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.0	2.3	1.9	1.5	1.5
35 or 65	1.0	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.4	2.0	1.6	1.5
40 or 60	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.4	2.1	1.6	1.6
45 or 55	1.0	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.6
50	1.0	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.6

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